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Info RMR BS SP LOR (MSA OP O LI TOP DCB CIA OSD DCL ICA

FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 426, December 22

SENT DEPARTMENT 426, REPEATED INFORMATION BENGHAZI UNNUMBERED

FOR ICA DIRECTOR HOLLISTER FROM AMBASSADOR TAPPIN

Acting Director USOM/L has shown me ICA program approval 57-31 setting TC funds Libya at two million and program personnel ceiling at 87. I agree completely with principle keeping size American staffs overseas under strict control. However in despatch 193 (our review response presidential directive) I expressed my opinion that staffing plans USOM/L represented reasonable minimum requirement in relation DA programed for Libya.

I still hold this view. My reasons are:

(1) There are not (repeat not) enough trained Libyans to permit GOL carry out development program which must be completed in minimum possible time if Libya is ever to get on its feet economically. GOL is rightly determined execute its development program rapidly and will be forced look elsewhere for foreign-subsidized technicians if Americans not (repat not) available. Unfortunately best source in terms availability is Egypt. While GOL realizes danger Egyptians have been and presumably would be, choice between slowing development program and accepting Egyptian technicians would be hard one.

(2) From my personal observation, American technicians in field are positive political and public relations assets to United States here.

(3) We want our aid to be identifiably American. This means using American technicians.

(4) Long-run value our investment here depends on training Libyans take over themselves. USOM now introducing extension techniques attain this goal, but needs people to do it.

(5) Some extremely important projects, such as replacement anti-Western Egyptian textbooks, will come to halt if halt in recruitment

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recruitment prevents assignment technicians.

USOM/L/ARC/Joint Services Program are major instruments United States policy in Libya and constitute vital link in chain United States political and military objectives here. In addition usual political and humanitarian bases on which such programs rest, they are in case of Libya direct quid pro quo for our expanding military base program. Thus I am convinced that our total program will suffer badly if USOM unable play its appropriate role in handling economic portion. Believe your staff should consult urgently with State and Defense on matter. On basis their findings I strongly urge you reconsider your decision and give early approval to provision additional technicians requested.

USOM/L forwarding details separately.

TAPPIN

RSP:JB-6

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